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Korea

20 Oct. 1949

North Korean Plans for South Korea

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1. It is generally believed in South Korea that the North Korean government has abandoned plans for an "election" in South Korea because of the intensive purge of Southern Communists, initiated by South Korean officials in early August. The Communist organizations which were able to hold "elections" in South Korea before the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in 1948 are now largely disorganized by the operations of the South Korean police. Leftist leaders in South Korea tried to collect signatures on blank ballots from the local population, but had little success. One Korean family was threatened with physical violence for refusing to sign the ballots.
2. During September three staff members of the North Korean Labor Party who were interviewed independently stated that the North Korean government planned no invasion of South Korea in 1949. However, they stated that leftist activities in South Korea would increase; for this purpose, leaders would be sent from North Korea to replace leftists who are now under arrest or suspicion. Many South Korean Communist leaders have fled into the mountain areas around Taegu. They have lost the support of the North Korean Communists, and many of their own followers fear to be associated with them. No organized Communist movement is anticipated until the South Korean groups have been reorganized.